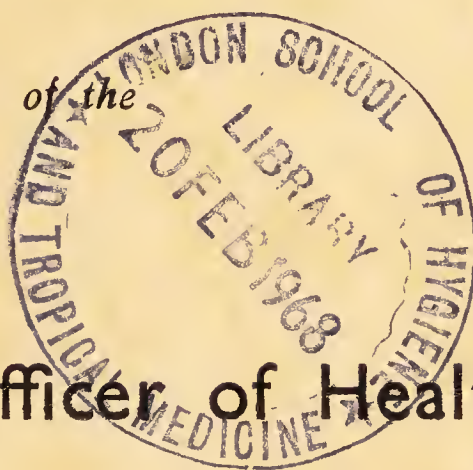


Eton Rural District Council

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# ANNUAL REPORT

Medical Officer of Health



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For the Year 1944







**To the Chairman and Members of the Eton Rural District Council.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1944, which has been compiled in accordance with Circular 49/45 of the Ministry of Health. I regret it has been impossible to complete it earlier as figures relating to the Vital Statistics were not received until 16th July, 1945.

**SECTION A.**

Population (Registrar General's Estimate, Mid-Year 1944) 39,400

**Vital Statistics.**

**Live Births.**

Total	.....	734	Male	367	Female	367
Legitimate	.....	692	„	342	„	350
Illegitimate	.....	42	„	25	„	17
Birth rate per 1,000 population	.....		.....	.....	.....	18.6
National rate	.....		.....	.....	.....	17.6

**Still Births.**

Total	.....	22	Male	10	Female	12
Legitimate	.....	21	„	10	„	11
Illegitimate	.....	1	„	0	„	1
Still Birth rate per 1,000 population	.....		.....	.....	.....	0.55
National rate	.....		.....	.....	.....	0.50

**Deaths.**

Total	.....	447	Male	212	Female	235
Death rate per 1,000 population	.....		.....	.....	.....	11.9
National rate	.....		.....	.....	.....	11.6
Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth:-						
(a) From sepsis	.....		.....	.....	.....	1
(b) From other causes	.....		.....	.....	.....	1

**Death rates from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 Total Births:-**

(a) From sepsis	.....	1.3	National rate	.....	0.59
(b) From other causes	.....	1.3	National rate	.....	1.34
(c) Total	.....	2.6	National rate	.....	1.93

**Deaths of Infants under One Year of age.**

Total	.....	26	Male	12	Female	14
Legitimate	.....	24	„	11	„	13
Illegitimate	.....	2	„	1	„	1

**Death rate of Infants under One Year of age.**

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	.....		.....	.....	.....	35.4
National rate	.....		.....	.....	.....	46.0

**Deaths from Measles (all ages).**

Male	0	Female	0	Total	0
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**Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).**

Male	0	Female	0	Total	0
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**Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2).**

Male	0	Female	1	Total	1
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**Causes of Death.**

	All Causes	Male	Female
	212	235	
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	
2. Measles	—	—	
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	
5. Diphtheria	—	—	
6. Influenza	2	2	
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	—	
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	9	
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1	
11. Syphilitic Diseases	—	1	
12. Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	—	—	
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease	26	55	
14. Diabetes	1	1	
15. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	14	26	
16. Heart Disease	69	48	
17. Other Circulatory Diseases	7	7	
18. Bronchitis	12	9	
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	8	10	
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	4	3	
21. Duodenal and Gastric Ulcer	5	2	
22. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	—	1	
23. Appendicitis	3	1	
24. Digestive Diseases	4	9	
25. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	5	6	
26. Puerperal Sepsis	—	1	
27. Other Puerperal Causes	—	1	
28. Premature Birth	4	7	
29. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, and Infant Diseases	7	4	
30. Road Traffic Accidents	8	4	
31. Suicide	1	—	
32. Other Violence	9	5	
33. All Other Causes	13	22	

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES—SECTION B.

The following Tables show the total notified cases of Infectious Diseases during the past 8 years, the monthly incidence and incidence in the various parishes.

**Table I.**

	Total Noti- fied 1944	Admit. to Hosp.	Deaths	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936
Small Pox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	103	81	—	69	52	48	93	54	40	53	40
Diphtheria .....	5	5	—	4	3	7	22	11	19	7	3
Enteric Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	15†	—	1	26	16	9	2	5	7	7	3
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	23	2	—	30	4	15	19	5	13	14	6
Erysipelas .....	8	3	—	5	14	6	7	10	9	6	9
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	3	2	2	1	6	6	10	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis & Encephalitis	—	—	—	1	2	18	8	—	—	2	—
Measles* .....	70	9	—	592	119	515	354	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough*	153	16	—	71	55	192	16	6	—	—	—

\* Notifiable from October 1939.

† 14 of these occurred at the Fulmer Chase Maternity Home and 1 at the Collinswood Maternity Home, Farnham Common.

**Table II.**

Showing Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever .....	5	7	15	9	7	1	8	6	10	7	20	8
Diphtheria .....	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Enteric Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	—	3	2	4	—	1	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia .....	2	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	—	5	1	4
Erysipelas .....	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis & Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	3	1	1	2	3	3	1	27	7	22
Whooping Cough	40	13	9	17	28	13	15	10	1	—	—	7

**Table III.**

Showing Cases of Infectious Diseases occurring in each Parish in the Area.

			Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough
Burnham	.....	.....	6	2	—	—	2	3	1	18	16
Datchet	.....	.....	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	29
Denham	.....	.....	7	—	—	—	3	—	—	5	—
Dorney	.....	.....	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Farnham	.....	.....	7	—	—	1*	5	1	—	2	2
Fulmer	.....	.....	—	—	—	14†	—	—	—	—	—
Gerrards Cross	.....	.....	15	1	—	—	4	1	—	9	7
Hedgerley	.....	.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Horton	.....	.....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Iver	.....	.....	25	1	—	—	7	3	—	27	82
Stoke Poges	.....	.....	9	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	12
Taplow	.....	.....	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2
Wexham	.....	.....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Wraysbury	.....	.....	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
TOTAL			103	5	—	15	23	8	3	70	153

\* At Collinswood Maternity Home, Farnham Common.

† At Fulmer Chase Maternity Home, Fulmer.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Table showing New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods	NEW CASES from Notifications				DEATHS				NEW CASES from Death Returns			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15	1	4	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	3	6	—	1	2	6	1	—	1	2	1	—
35	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	3	2	—	—	4	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	10	14	6	3	7	9	1	1	5	3	1	1

Death rate from Tuberculosis per 1,000 population ..... 45

## SECTION B.

### THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.

A study of the Vital Statistics shows that the general health of the district has been very good and that the rates compare very favourably with those of the country generally.

The birth rate of 18.6 per 1,000 shows an increase over previous years—the rates for the past 5 years being 17.35, 15.4, 13.9, 14.2 and 15.4. The national rate for 1944 was 17.6.

The death rate of 11.9 shows a slight increase, the rates for 1943, 1942 and 1941 being 10.6 and for 1940 and 1939—12.1 and 9.35.

The Infantile Mortality rate of 35.4 is 10.6 below the national rate—rates for 1939 - 1943 being 40.6, 30.1, 42.9, 58.2 and 37.

The incidence of infectious diseases per 1,000 population as compared with that of England and Wales is set out below:-

			<i>Eton Rural District.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	2.61	2.40
Diphtheria	.....	.....	0.13	0.58
Typhoid Fever	.....	.....	0.0	0.01
Para-Typhoid Fever	.....	.....	0.0	0.01
Pneumonia	.....	.....	0.58	0.97
Erysipelas	.....	.....	0.2	0.29
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.....	.....	0.076	0.05
Measles	.....	.....	1.77	4.16
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	3.88	2.49

5 cases of **Diphtheria** occurred compared with 4, 3, 7, 22 and 11 during the previous 5 years; 3 were adults aged 35, 23 and 20 years, and 2 were children aged 14 and 6, neither of whom had been immunised.

School children are immunised at the Schools, and a Clinic is held weekly at the Health Centre, Burlington Avenue, Slough. Children under 5 years of age may also be immunised at the Infant Welfare Centres. 90% of the school children have now been immunised and 48.3% of children under 5, excluding those under one year of age.

**Scarlet Fever** shows an increase over last year—103 cases being notified. 81 were admitted to Hospital and all were of the prevailing mild type.

3 cases of **Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis** were notified. All were infants under 2 years, and in 2 cases the disease proved fatal.

70 cases of **Measles** were notified during the year, compared with 592 in 1943. There was an increase in the number of **Whooping Cough** cases, 153 being notified as against 71 last year. 82 of these occurred in the parish of Iver. No deaths were recorded from either disease.

During the year, the following specimens from the Eton Rural District were examined at the Town Hall Laboratory:—

For Diphtheria Bacilli	.....	.....	.....	.....	68
For Hæmolytic Streptococci	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
For Vincent's Angina	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	.....	.....	.....	.....	37
Blood for Widal reaction	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Fæces for Typhoid, Dysentery, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
For Gonococci	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Water samples	.....	.....	.....	.....	44
Milk samples:-					
Plate Count	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Phosphatase Test	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Methylene Blue Test	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Coliform Test	.....	.....	.....	.....	12

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Public Cleansing.

The Council, in September 1943, adopted a scheme for the co-ordination of the various separate scavenging arrangements with the appointment of Mr. F. J. Miles, one of the Council's Sanitary Inspectors, as Public Cleansing Officer.

Progress with the scheme has been made in 1944, despite war-time difficulties, and certain Parishes, i.e., Farnham Royal, Hedgerley, Denham, Dorney and Stoke Poges, have now been brought into line with the remaining Parishes and are provided with a complete service of cesspool emptying and/or refuse collection.

When the Council are in a position to undertake all the Public Cleansing work with direct labour and their own vehicles, further improvement may be anticipated, but the Council appreciate that improved cesspool emptying services can only be considered as a temporary expedient for the general provision of main drainage.

The collection of salvage continued and some 349 tons of materials were collected and sold.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The war-time centralisation of slaughtering at the Gerrards Cross slaughterhouse has been continued during the year and details of the results of the inspections made by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors are given below. A list of other foods dealt with at shops and other food premises is also given:-

#### Details of Meat Inspection - 1944.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<b>Number slaughtered</b> .....	1,025	378	1,027	2,901	344
<b>Number examined</b> .....	1,025	378	1,027	2,901	344
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	Nil	2	—	3	10
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	100	35	—	28	42
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis .....	9.7 %	9.8 %	—	1.1 %	15.3 %
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	3	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	141	54	1	—	4
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tubercu- losis .....	13.7 %	15 %	—	—	1.7 %

## Other Food Condemned - 1944.

249 lbs. of imported beef.  
 54 lbs. of pork sausages.  
 25 lbs. of meat rissoles.  
 \*5 Hams (48 lbs.).  
 \*71 lbs. of bacon.  
 19 tins of pork luncheon meat (128 lbs.).  
 2 tins of pork luncheon sausage (12 lbs.).  
 1 tin of beef brisket (6 lbs.).  
 2 tins of chopped ham (8½ lbs.).  
 2 tins of ox tongues (12 lbs.).  
 40 stone of wet fish (skate, cod and whiting).  
 24 lbs. of apple rings.  
 70 lbs. of dates.  
 60 lbs. of butter.  
 50 eggs.  
 116 tins of assorted pudding mixtures.  
 179 tins of assorted egg substitute.  
 57 tins of fish (assorted).  
 79 tins of milk (assorted).  
 17 tins of vegetables.  
 37 tins of baked beans.  
 45 tins of soups (assorted).  
 18 tins of meat products.  
 53 tins of plums.  
 14 tins of grapefruit.  
 5 jars of plum jam.  
 33 lbs. of marmalade.  
 7 tins of lemon curd.  
 45 pints of salad dressing.  
 3 5-gallon drums of rhubarb.  
 20 lbs. of chocolate.  
 10 lbs. of tea.  
 1-lb. slab of seed cake.  
 28 jars of beef extract.

\* Returned to wholesalers through trade channels.

## Milk.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, the following licences were issued:-

Dealers to sell T.T. Milk (including Supplementary)	9
Dealers to sell Pasteurised Milk	7
Dealers to sell Accredited Milk	1
To bottle T.T. Milk	1
To pasteurise Milk	1

6 samples of Pasteurised Milk were examined in the Town Hall Laboratory. One failed to conform to the prescribed test, which was due to a temporary defect in the Pasteurising plant. A repeat sample proved satisfactory.

## Water Supplies.

Four Water Companies provide main supplies throughout the greater part of the district. The treated water is examined bacteriologically by the Companies monthly and also by the Eton Rural District Council at two-monthly intervals. The supplies are always reported to be of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

The following Table shows the proportion of dwelling houses and population on the main supply:-

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Estimated No. of Houses</i>	<i>Estimated No. without Main supply</i>	<i>Percentage without Main supply</i>	<i>Water Undertaking supplying Parish</i>
<b>Burnham</b> .....	1,500	21	1.4	Burnham Water Co.
<b>Datchet</b> .....	880	12	1.36	Slough B.C.'s Supply
<b>Denham</b> .....	1,210	7	0.57	Rickmansw'th W. Co.
<b>Dorney</b> .....	150	20	13.3	Burnham Water Co.
<b>Farnham Royal</b>	620	1	0.16	Burnham W. Co. and Slough B.C.'s Supply
<b>Fulmer</b> .....	125	2	1.6	Rickmansworth and Slough B.C.'s Supply
<b>Gerrards Cross</b>	1,055	—	—	Rickmansworth and Amersham Supplies
<b>Hedgerley</b> .....	145	5	3.4	Rickmansworth and Burnham Supplies
<b>Horton</b> .....	240	31	12.9	Rickmansworth and Slough B.C. Supplies
<b>Iver</b> .....	2,250	9	0.4	Rickmansworth and Slough B.C. Supplies
<b>Stoke Poges</b> .....	610	5	0.82	Slough B.C.'s Supply
<b>Taplow</b> .....	380	27	7.1	Burnham Water Co.
<b>Wexham</b> .....	320	14	4.37	Slough B.C.'s Supply
<b>Wraysbury</b> .....	900	522	58.0	Rickmansw'th W. Co.

Bacteriological examination of well supplies in the District was carried out on 13 samples, 7 of which were found to be satisfactory and 6 unsatisfactory. In all cases where the samples were found to be unfit, owners were informed and asked to take the necessary action.

V. A. T. SPONG,

*Medical Officer of Health.*





